
Why the concern

Grecian foxglove:

- ▶ displaces native species
 - ▶ toxic to humans and animals
-

Grecian foxglove spreads rapidly after the first few plants become established. Eating small amounts of fresh or dried plant material may be sufficient to cause severe symptoms or death. Grecian foxglove poses a threat to grazing lands and, in particular, hay meadows. Even smoke from burning plants is thought to be toxic.

Symptoms of digitalis poisoning include nausea, vomiting and severe headache.

**GRECIAN FOXGLOVE MAY BE
FATAL IF EATEN**

Who to contact

If you see or know of Grecian foxglove plants, please report the location to:

☞ **County Noxious Weed Dept.**

☞ **County Extension Office**

☞ **Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
785 862-2180**

CAUTION

Grecian foxglove produces digitalis, a heart stimulant. Avoid prolonged contact with bare skin. If you pull plants, use rubber gloves.

This brochure was printed with funds provided by the Interstate Pest Control Compact

GRECIAN FOXGLOVE

An Invasive Ornamental Plant



Kansas Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection & Weed Control Program
Forbes Field Bldg. 282 PO Box 19282
Topeka, KS 66619

Grecian Foxglove



Grecian foxglove in full bloom

Grecian foxglove is an exotic plant that is native to the scrub oak forests of southeast Europe. It was introduced into the United States as an ornamental plant. It has escaped cultivation and currently poses a threat to Kansas livestock production by invading pastures and hay meadows. The plant produces digitalis, a cardiac stimulant, that has been used for many years to treat certain heart conditions. Animals may die from cardiac failure if they eat the plant. People may also be adversely affected if the plant is eaten or if bare skin is subject to prolonged exposure to the plant.

Identification

Grecian foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*) is a perennial broadleaf plant that forms a rosette the first year of growth. Leaves of the rosette resemble buckhorn plantain, a common plant that may be found in lawns and is sometimes used as a medicinal herb. Grecian foxglove produces a flowering stalk the second year and will continue to flower each year for many years.



Grecian foxglove rosette

Flowering stalk



Grecian foxglove flower stalk

Flowering begins in late May and continues through June. Some flowering plants may be found throughout the growing season. Seeds develop in pods that have a small hooks on the end, thus they may become attached to clothing or animal fur and transported long distances to begin new infestations.